

SUPPORT HB 5324- AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFETY BY RESTRICTING THE PLACEMENT OF  
LEGHOLD TRAPS (SUPPORT, REQUESRT Amendment)

Submitted by:

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I am a Connecticut licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. I have rehabilitated primarily orphaned and juvenile wildlife for 13 years. As such, I have seen the unintended results of leghold traps. These traps don't selectively trap their intended victim. They snap shut on anything or anyone that touches the trigger, no matter how inadvertently. Though adult wildlife are the intended targets of these traps, they also trap orphaned wildlife searching for their mothers, juvenile wildlife out on their first adventure with their mothers as they learn how to live, hawks and owls looking for a meal, pet cats and dogs, and even children. The trap doesn't know if it snaps shut on a leg, a tail, or a neck of a baby or juvenile mammal, a red tail hawk, a cat 's leg or a dog's paw, or the arm of a child who sees the trap and doesn't know to stay, or even worse, tried to free a pet or baby animal and is injured. These traps, if they must be used, should be used only where there are no children around. They should be placed where only specific animal intended for the trap is actually caught.